

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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Powell lays out case against Iraq to U.N.

Following is a partial transcript of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's presentation to the U.N. Security Council on the U.S. case against Iraq.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished colleagues, I would like to begin by expressing my thanks for the special effort that each of you made to be here today.

This is important day for us all as we review the situation with respect to Iraq and its disarmament obligations under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441.

Last November 8, this council passed Resolution 1441 by a unanimous vote. The purpose of that resolution was to disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction. Iraq had already been found guilty of material breach of its obligations, stretching back over 16 previous resolutions and 12 years.

Resolution 1441 was not dealing with an innocent party, but a regime this council has repeatedly convicted over the years. Resolution 1441 gave Iraq one last chance, one last chance to come into compliance or to face serious consequences. No council member present in voting on that day had

any illusions about the nature and intent of the resolution or what serious consequences meant if Iraq did not comply.

And to assist in its disarmament, we called on Iraq to cooperate with returning inspectors from UNMOVIC and IAEA.

We laid down tough standards for Iraq to meet to allow the inspectors to do their job.

This council placed the burden on Iraq to comply and disarm and not on the inspectors to find that which Iraq has gone out of its way to conceal for so long. Inspectors are inspectors; they are not

Pre-Inspection Al Fatah Missile Removal Al-Musayyib Rocket Test Facility



An image shown during U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's presentation on Iraq before the United Nations Security Council, February 5, 2003 reportedly shows an Iraqi missile facility that violates U.N disarmament resolutions. In a presentation that included U.S. intelligence from spy satellites, telephone intercepts and Iraqi defectors, Powell argued that Iraq had concealed equipment from its suspected weapons programs to flout the U.N. inspectors searching the country for evidence of chemical, biological and nuclear arms.

detectives.

I asked for this session today for two purposes: First, to support the core assessments made by Dr. Blix and Dr. ElBaradei. As Dr. Blix reported to this council on January 27th, "Iraq appears not to have come to a genuine acceptance, not even today, of the disarmament which was demanded of it."

And as Dr. ElBaradei reported, Iraq's declaration of December 7, "did not provide any new information relevant to certain questions

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Rumsfeld: world stage not a court of law

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 2003 — The world stage isn't a court of law, and the United States isn't trying to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Saddam Hussein is a threat, but to convince reasonable people of this, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said today.

"In our country, in courts of law it has been customary to seek evidence that could prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. That approach, of course, is appropriate when the objective is to protect the rights of the accused," Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon media briefing. "But in an age of weapons of mass destruction and weapons that can kill tens of thousands of innocent people, our goal has to be to take all reasonable steps to protect the lives of our citizens. That is a quite different task."

He urged people to consider what the world knew before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Even in hindsight, no proverbial smoking gun existed that would have enabled U.S. leaders to prevent the attacks.

"You get the smoking gun after the planes have crashed," Rumsfeld said. U.S. leaders have said repeatedly they hope never to have another smoking gun — because that means an attack has already occurred.

Reserve, Guard callup strength now exceeds 110,000

by Pauline Jelinek, Associated Press

More than 110,000 National Guard and reserve forces are now serving around the United States and overseas as the U.S. buildup for a possible war with Iraq continues.

In its weekly accounting of those called to active duty, the Defense Department said Wednesday that the number mobilized has jumped by some 17,000 in the past week, the third consecutive large weekly increase and second largest since the September 2001 terrorist attacks on America.

That brings the total now serving to 111,600, said Lt. Col. Dan Stoneking, a Pentagon spokesman.

Activated troops include 80,000 from Army National Guard and Army Reserve, 5,600 from the Naval Reserve, 11,700 from the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 12,280 from the Marine Corps, and

The secretary said the public's and other countries' "fixation" with finding a smoking gun "is a misunderstanding of what we're doing, and what's going on in the world, and what the nature of the threat is."

Rumsfeld also responded to public statements by Saddam Hussein that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction whatsoever and no ties to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda terrorist network. A reporter asked what he thought of such statements.

"And Abraham Lincoln was short," Rumsfeld replied.

"How does one respond to that?" he continued. "I mean, he said that Secretary (of State Colin) Powell's words tomorrow (to the U.N. Security Council) are going to be lies. He says that the photographs that will be shown will be doctored."

"It's just a continuous pattern," Rumsfeld said. "This is a case of the local liar coming up again and people repeating what he said and forgetting to say that he ... rarely tells the truth."

In Iraq today, U.N. weapons inspectors have reported finding another empty chemical warhead. Inspectors found 12 such rockets in a storage area south of Baghdad Jan. 16. Iraq turned over four more a few days later and claimed they'd been forgotten.

nearly 2,000 Coast Guard reservists.

Under an order signed by President George W. Bush three days after the 2001 terrorist attacks, up to 1 million guard and reserve troops can be called to serve for up to two years. But officials have said it is unlikely that number would be needed.

Since then, about 170,000 have been mobilized, some finishing their duty and going back to civilian life.

Stoneking didn't specify where units had been sent, though a substantial portion are part of the buildup for a possible war in Iraq and others are assigned to homeland defense jobs.

Some 100,000 American forces have now been assembled in the Gulf region. The number is expected to approach 180,000 within a few weeks.

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Officials: Iraq could be pretense for U.S. terror attack

WASHINGTON (CNN) — The threat of a terrorist attack on U.S. soil is at a higher level than in previous months because of the possibility of impending military action against Iraq, U.S. counterterrorism officials told CNN on Wednesday.

“The threat level is definitely up. Our guys have been told to act as if we have already bombed Iraq,” one senior counterterrorism official told CNN.

Government officials said they are concerned that al Qaeda, Iraqi agents or individuals would launch an attack coinciding with a U.S. strike against Iraq.

Sources say the FBI is closely watching a “handful” of people believed to be Iraqi intelligence officers in the United States. It is part of the bureau’s effort to question many of the tens of thousands of Iraqis living in the United States.

There is also surveillance of up to 1,000 Iraqi nationals who are thought to be supporters of Saddam.

Sources say that since the September 11 attacks, the United States has received constant intelligence about another major al Qaeda assault. There is continuing fear of al Qaeda obtaining weapons of mass destruction, but officials said there is no proof the terrorist

organization has such weapons yet.

“If they get their hands on them, no doubt they will use them,” a senior official told CNN.



A senior counterterrorism official said has remained concerned about a second terrorist attack since September 11, 2001. “We’re holding our breath” because of Iraq, the official said.

Heightened concern prompted the FBI to instruct its agents to have packed three days of clothes and personal items and one bag a bag for at least a one-month deployment, sources said.

Government officials have debated whether to put out an alert warning about an increased chance of an attack or actually raising the national threat level. The national threat level will remain at yellow, or elevated, sources told CNN.

The FBI will deliver a National Threat Assessment to Congress next week which will describe how al Qaeda continues to adapt and will say that a major concern is the threat of chemical and biological agents.

Iraq and its quest for nuclear weapons

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 2003 — Following the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the U.S. military gathered huge piles of information and came up with a long list of “lessons learned.”

The United States wasn’t the only place with experts mulling over the war. One Indian general came up with his succinct own lessons learned from the conflict: “Never fight the Americans without nuclear weapons.”

A huge post-war surprise for the victorious Gulf War coalition was how close Iraq had been to having nuclear warheads.

Iraq was within months of producing an enriched-uranium nuclear weapon when the Persian Gulf War started in January 1991. Had Iraq waited until it had a nuke and had mounted it on a Scud missile begs the question of what the worldwide response would have been to its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Would the United States have been as quick to offer aid to Kuwait? Would any of the Gulf nations have allowed a U.S. or coalition presence if Saddam Hussein had threatened nuclear retaliation? By extension, would or could the United States have been able to mass a coalition?

“The purpose of a terror weapon is to terrorize,” Defense Secretary

Donald H. Rumsfeld said during testimony before Congress on Sept. 18, 2002. “And it need not even be used to still be very effective, because it alters behavior. And in the hands of the likes of Saddam Hussein, that is a significant shift in capability and power.”

Iraq, with its ties to worldwide terrorism, is a rogue state. Hussein has already used weapons of mass destruction on his neighbors and his own people. An Iraqi nuclear weapon would clearly be destabilizing.

“His regime has an active program to acquire and develop nuclear weapons,” Rumsfeld said. “And let there be no doubt about it, his regime has dozens of ballistic missiles and is working to extend their range in violation of U.N. restriction.”

The Persian Gulf War heavily damaged Iraq’s nuclear facilities. Yet Iraq managed to hang on to its scientific and technical expertise. Hussein has kept his core of nuclear experts together.

Experts believe Hussein’s “nuclear holy warriors,” as he calls his scientists, have developed the plans for a nuclear weapon. The International Institute for Strategic Studies said Iraqi scientists could fashion a warhead within months if only Hussein could get foreign fissile material.

Army to transform Officer Education System

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Feb. 04, 2003) - Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki has approved a number of initiatives to transform the Officer Education System.

The current Officer Basic Courses will be transformed into a three-phase Basic Officer Leader Course, called BOLC.

The Captains Career Course — consisting of Officer Advanced Courses and the Combined Arms and Services Staff School — will be replaced by the Combined Arms Battle Command Course and the Combined Arms Staff Course, respectively. Finally, Intermediate Level Education, or ILE, will provide all majors with three months of the same operational common-core instruction and additional tailored instruction tied to their career field, branch or functional area.

Many of the changes were recommended by the Army Training and Leader Development Panel officer study. This study identified two formative periods in an officer's career during which institutional training and education plays a critical role. The first is initial entry, when the institution prepares officers to lead small units, officials said. The other formative period is associated with the officer's selection for promotion to major, when educational institutions prepare them for field-grade responsibilities, officials added.

The first new initiative, BOLC, will ensure a tough, standardized, small-unit leadership experience, officials said. It flows from BOLC I, the pre-commissioning phase, to BOLC II, the initial-entry field leadership experience, and then BOLC III, the branch technical and tactical training phase.

The Army will benefit from BOLC by developing a corps of mature, confident and competent lieutenants who have a common bond with their combined arms peers, officials said. They said graduates will be ready to lead small units upon arrival at their first assignment. Plans are for BOLC to be fully implemented in the 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2006.

The second initiative focuses on the training and education of captains. Two courses are currently planned: The Combined Arms Staff Course for staff officers and the Combined Arms Battle Command Course for company/battery/troop commanders. These courses will provide assignment-oriented training, just in time for the duty position, officials said.

Both courses capitalize on advanced distributed learning and new high-impact resident training methods such as the multi-echelon, combined arms "gauntlet" exercises conducted at Fort Knox, Ky. CASC and CABCC will put commanders back in the driver's seat for junior officer professional development, officials said, while returning approximately 1,500 captains to the field. They said plans are for CASC and CABCC to be fully implemented by 2nd quarter, FY 06.

The third initiative, Intermediate Level Education, provides all majors with the same common core of operational instruction, and additional tailored education opportunities tied to the requirements of the officer's specific career field, branch or functional area. For majors, the current Command and General Staff Officer Course selection policy makes education a discriminator, officials said.

"Under this policy only 50 percent of mid-career officers attend resident instruction, while the other 50 percent complete the education through non-resident courses," said Lt. Col. Jim McCreight, chief of the ILE Team at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. "Under the ILE concept, 100 percent of the majors will get resident instruction."

"The ILE is designed to provide all majors a quality, tailored education, linked to Officer Personnel Management System III, to prepare them for their next 10 years of service," said Col. Mike Griswold, special assistant for Leader Development to the Commandant, CGSC. "This program will produce field grade officers with a warrior ethos who are grounded in warfighting doctrine, and who have the technical, tactical, and leadership competencies and skills to be successful in their career field, branch, or functional area."

Upon full implementation of ILE in the fourth quarter, FY 05, the three-month ILE common core curriculum will be delivered in residence at Fort Leavenworth for operations career field officers, reserve-component officers, and the traditional complement of sister service and international officers.

The information operations, operations support, installation support and special branch officers will receive their ILE common core at distance education campus sites where qualified Command and General Staff College instructors will teach them. Reserve-component officers will still attend The Army School System TASS classrooms located in CONUS and overseas, or can take the core via an advanced distributed learning course.

Officers completing the ILE core curriculum will be military education level 4, MEL 4, and joint professional military education, JPME I, qualified. To complement the core and obtain career-field credentialing, officers in the information operations, operational support, and institutional support career fields will participate in functional area qualification courses. For some proponents, officials said this tailored educational experience will also include advanced civil schooling.

The seven-month Advanced Operations and Warfighting Course at Fort Leavenworth for operations career-field officers will focus on planning and executing full-spectrum operations at the tactical and operational levels. History, leadership, and joint instruction will



Bahraini monarch urges Saddam to comply with U.N.

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 2003 — The king of Bahrain stood in front of the Pentagon today and told reporters Saddam Hussein should disarm.

“We are committed to secure all means to defend our countries in order to preserve peace and stability before anything else,” King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa said outside the American military headquarters after meeting briefly with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. “For the sake of peace, we urge Iraq to comply with the international inspectors so that the people of the region can avoid another war.”

Bahrain is a longtime U.S. ally in the Persian Gulf. The tiny island nation, roughly 20 miles east of Saudi Arabia, is home to the U.S. Navy’s 5th Fleet.

King Hamad met with President Bush Feb. 3.

“His majesty is here and met with the president yesterday to indicate his support for the president and for the global war on terrorism,” Rumsfeld said in introducing the king to the Pentagon press corps. “Those of us here in the United States are deeply appreciative of all his support and the assistance that he has provided.”

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Army to transform Officer Education System continued

continue to receive heavy emphasis throughout the curriculum, officials said.

Simulations will be used extensively to drive the learning and multiple opportunities will be provided for officers to practice their warfighting competencies and skills. This learning model will send field-grade officers back to the Army better prepared to run staffs, support commanders, mentor junior officers, and eventually command battalions and brigades, officials said. The result will be a significant improvement in the tactical and operational warfighting capability of Army and joint staffs, officials added.

The ILE core curriculum pilot started at Fort Leavenworth in August 2002 with 256 officers. These same 256 officers are now piloting the Advanced Operations and Warfighting Course.

In addition to the Fort Leavenworth pilot, The Army will pilot the distance-education campus site concept in the spring, officials said, using the core curriculum piloted at Fort Leavenworth this past fall. Priority of attendance will be for other-than-operations career-field officers already board-selected for CGSOC. Pilots will continue in fiscal year 2004, officials said, until full implementation of ILE in FY 05.

“All three of these initiatives adhere to the overarching principle behind OES Transformation: right training and education, right officer, right medium, right time and place,” said Griswold.



Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld (right) introduces King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain at a short press briefing outside the Pentagon following their meeting Feb. 4, 2003.

Photo by Kathleen T. Rhem

Guard, Reserve destined for bigger homeland defense roles

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 2003 — The president’s nominee to become DoD’s chief liaison to the Department of Homeland Security told U.S. lawmakers during a recent confirmation hearing that he sees the Guard and Reserve assuming more homeland defense duties.

Paul McHale, former Pennsylvania congressman and Marine, met Jan. 30 with Senate Armed Services Committee members to discuss his nomination to become the assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense.

In answering a question from Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe, McHale said the Guard and Reserve would become more deeply engaged in homeland defense in the months to come. In fact, he said, DoD is conducting a review of future reserve component roles and missions.

Today’s Guard provides an overseas warfighting capability that has to be retained, McHale said. But he also pointed to the projected increase in the number of Guard civil support teams — now at 27 — and continued Air Guard support of combat air patrol missions over the nation’s skies.

“If anything, the Guard will in some ways be coming back to its roots to defend the nation domestically,” he added. He later emphasized to senators the National Guard should be a “balanced” force, in the sense members are equally as trained and prepared for new, major roles in homeland defense as for potential overseas missions.

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Rumsfeld, Myers express support for Gen. Franks

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 2003 – America's top defense leaders expressed strong support today for Army Gen. Tommy Franks, the U.S. Central Command commander who is the subject of a defense inspector general investigation over alleged irregularities.

"Tom Franks is doing a superb job for this country, and we are lucky to have him there," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in a Pentagon briefing. "He is a man of great talent and skill, and he has my complete confidence and the complete confidence of the president of the United States."

As commander of CENTCOM, Franks is the general responsible for prosecuting the war on terror in a broad geographic area, including Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. He would also likely lead any military operation in Iraq.

An article in today's Washington Post reveals Franks is the subject of an IG investigation over privileges allegedly afforded his wife, Cathy. According to the article, the IG is looking into allegations that Franks allowed his wife into highly classified briefings and didn't properly reimburse the government for her travel on official aircraft.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers backed up his boss's statement of support for Franks. "Americans ought to be very proud they have somebody like Tom Franks putting his mind and leading his people to plan for potential conflict in his area of responsibility. They could not be better served," Myers said. "And there's nobody that would not want their son or daughter to serve under a plan that he's put together or under his command, in my opinion."

Rumsfeld dismissed concerns that his statements of support could lead to undue command influence on investigators or a conflict of interest on his part. Franks reports directly to Rumsfeld, so Rumsfeld would have to mete out any eventual punishment should the investigation find any wrongdoing.

Bahraini monarch urges Saddam to comply with U.N. continued

The king said defense cooperation between the United States and Bahrain is "a key element in the defense system of the Arabian Gulf region." He noted the region is vital in supplying oil "which underpins the global economy" and ensures continuity of trade.

He stopped short of expressly endorsing a possible U.S.-led invasion of Iraq should Hussein fail to comply with U.N. requirements. He said that decision was up to the international community to make, but he did appear to voice support for international efforts to disarm Iraq.

"Bahrain is keen, as a peaceful country, to use all means to defend its people in a region that has suffered consecutive wars," King Hamad said.

The secretary said he has not seen an IG report and that his comments have no bearing on the investigation. He noted that the investigation came to the media's attention through an unauthorized leak, and he said he felt the attention was unfair to Franks.

"It struck me that to counterbalance that unfairness to him I would say what I thought about him as a combatant commander," Rumsfeld said. "I think I did exactly the right thing, and unless someone tells me it's the wrong thing to do, I will probably keep right on doing it."

Defense officials pointed out that IG investigations are not uncommon, and often don't find any wrongdoing. Rumsfeld noted that any time an individual makes an allegation, an investigation is called for. He also declined to comment on the specific allegations against Franks because the investigation is ongoing.

"Investigations take awhile," he said. "And I suppose it's because good people try to do them right and try to be careful."

Armitage says normal relations start with North Korea's end of "self-destructive" ways

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 2003 — An immediate cost to North Korea for normal relations with other nations is to stop trying to commit suicide and blackmail, Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage said today.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relation Committee, Armitage discussed North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons and its "onerous restrictions" on food aid distribution that threaten the lives of millions of its citizens.

"It is time for North Korea to turn away from this self-destructive course. They have nothing to gain from acquiring nuclear weapons — and much to lose," he said. "Indeed, every day, the people of that country are paying a terrible price for these programs in international isolation and misspent national resources."

Despite the North's lies for nearly a decade about its efforts to gain nuclear weapons and its current stubbornness to continue them, Armitage reminded the committee that the president and State Department have said diplomacy is the best option at this time.

"We intend to resolve the threats posed by North Korea's programs by working with the international community to find a peaceful, diplomatic solution," he said. "Indeed, we are prepared to build a different kind of relationship with North Korea."

He recounted events last year that derailed a "bold new approach" the United States intended for normal relations with the North. That

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Cave-clearing ops proceed in Spin Boldak area

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 2003 — Coalition soldiers continue to clear caves in the Spin Boldak area, U.S. officials said in Afghanistan.

Between 300 and 350 soldiers are involved in Operation Mongoose, said Army Maj. Bob Hepner, a spokesman with Combined Joint Task Force-180.

He said 75 caves that could hide men or equipment were identified in the area. To date, 46 have been cleared. Soldiers and European-ally F-16 fighter pilots destroyed another 15 caves — the soldiers marked them with lasers and the pilots sealed them with bombs.

The operations started Jan. 28 when U.S. Special Forces soldiers, 82nd Airborne Division troopers and Afghan militia went into the

Adi Gahr Mountains after local Afghans reported that followers of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar were holed up there. Heavy fighting ensued; U.S. officials reported 18 enemy fighters were killed in the engagement.

Hekmatyar, a former prime minister, had been generally thought to be an unaligned, renegade guerrilla leader. Flyers distributed last year in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan, however, claimed Hekmatyar had joined forces with al Qaeda terrorists.

Following the mountain battle, coalition soldiers found arms caches, intelligence information and animals in the caves. "Some of the caves were used for a long time," officials in Afghanistan said.

They said Operation Mongoose will continue "until it's done."

Armitage says normal relations start with North Korea's end of "self-destructive" ways continued

plan had been crafted last summer in consultation with South Korea and Japan, he said.

Among other things, the plan called for political and economic measures to help improve the lives of the citizens of North Korea, where millions have already died of starvation over recent years or who are at risk now of imminent starvation, but only after the North Korean government abandoned its nuclear weapons programs in a "verifiable and irreversible manner."

He discussed conditions on North Korea that would meet U.S. approval: the immediate freeze on activities at the Yongbyon complex and the plutonium program there; the dismantlement of its program to develop nuclear weapons through highly enriched uranium; the international verification that it has done so; and its full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Armitage said North Korea would also have to comply with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the treaty's safeguards agreement.

"The U.S. will not dole out any 'rewards' to convince North Korea to live up to its existing obligations," Armitage said. "But we do remain prepared to transform our relations with that country once it complies with its international obligations and commitments. Channels of communication between our countries remain open, but ultimately, it is the actions of North Korea that matter. And North Korea needs to act soon, for the sake of its people."

He discussed unusual restrictions North Korea places on the distribution of food aid. It requires that World Food Program officials give six days' notice of visits to food distribution sites. It does not allow the WFP to use Korean-speaking staff. It also denies the WFP access to about 20 percent of North Korean counties, he said.

"No other nation in the world places such excessive restrictions on food aid," he said.

Armitage said the restrictions prevent the United States from being certain that its donated food, which the WFP distributes, actually

reaches the starving North Koreans who need it.

"We do have concerns and we do face challenges with this assistance," he said, adding the North Korean government puts continued food aid at risk.

America is and has been for years the world's biggest contributor of food aid to North Korea, he told the senators, but it's also obliged to feed its own hungry and has commitments to help over 80 other countries.

President Bush has stressed the United States will continue its emergency food aid and will not use food as a weapon, "(Our) competing demands naturally will have to factor into our decision about exactly how much aid to give North Korea," he said.

Armitage said the United States is willing to talk to North Korea about how to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, but threat posed affects the entire region. South Korea, Japan, China, Russia, Australia and other neighbors have reasons to be concerned.

"The threat posed by North Korea's nuclear programs sends ripples of instability across the region — and around the globe," he said. The U.S. government hopes to increase relations with international partners and allies to make "North Korea understand the potential consequences of (its) dangerous and provocative actions."

Secretary of State Colin Powell, he said, speaks regularly to his Asia-Pacific and European counterparts, and those of other nations. "Without exception, they share our concerns and our commitment for a nuclear weapons-free Korean Peninsula," he said.

Armitage said the United States will continue to seek dialogue between South Korea and North Korea as part of the "international community's effort to find a diplomatic solution."

His appearance and remarks in the Senate come just months before the 50th anniversary of the Korean Armistice. Signed July 17, 1953, the armistice effectively ended the Korean War, in which more than 4 million Koreans and some 34,000 U.S. service members died.

Civil Support teams help in Columbia debris search

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 2003 — The National Guard Civil Support teams called to duty to handle the aftermath of the Columbia tragedy are uniquely suited to the purpose.

The 21-member teams are trained to handle the aftermath of terrorist attacks. The equipment and training team members receive, however, also enable them to help in this tragedy.

The space shuttle Columbia broke apart Feb. 1 while at 200,000 feet over eastern Texas. NASA officials immediately started warning people not to touch debris because of environmental dangers. Among other chemicals aboard Columbia, they said, the fuels it used to maneuver in space are toxic. In addition, they reported, pyrotechnic devices, such as explosive bolts, could explode and kill or maim anyone handling them.

The Texas National Guard's 6th Civil Support Team immediately began helping to isolate and examine debris. Teams from Arkansas and Oklahoma soon joined in as the scope of the search area grew. Officials said Columbia's debris field covered an area of 23,000 square miles in Texas and Louisiana.

The civil support teams travel with biological and chemical monitoring equipment, portable sensors, laboratories and testing apparatus. They have protective gear that allows them to approach a hazard safely and operate around it. The teams are trained to operate with local first responders — the police and firefighters usually first to arrive on a scene.

Army Col. Pat Scully, a spokesman for the Oklahoma Guard, said the 63rd Civil Support Team, based in Oklahoma City, is operating out of Palestine, Texas. The team "is going out and making sure the debris is not contaminated and then allowing officials to collect the debris."

The team, he said, advises first responders on what chemicals are present, the dangers they pose, and the incident commander's options.

The team has four to six hours to reach a site. All equipment is designed for easy airlifting if needed. In the case of the Columbia disaster, the Oklahomans reached Palestine in five hours.

All team members serve full time. This was the Oklahomans' first



American flags and flowers mark the site of a piece of debris from space shuttle Columbia near Nacogdoches, Texas Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2003. (AP Photo/Eric Gay, pool)

real-world deployment. Scully said officials were pleased with the unit's response speed and with the job it did while on scene.

Scully said the search for debris is very organized. He said the Texans have set up a grid and are methodically combing it. All search operations are under the control of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Iraq and its quest for nuclear weapons continued

President Bush addressed the threat of Iraqi nuclear weapons in his State of the Union speech Jan. 28. He noted that the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed in its inspections following the Gulf War that Iraq had an advanced nuclear weapons development program and a bomb design. Saddam Hussein's scientists were also working on five different methods of enriching uranium for a bomb, Bush said.

"The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa," Bush said.

"Our intelligence sources tell us that he has attempted to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes suitable for nuclear weapons production.

"Saddam Hussein has not credibly explained these activities," Bush continued. "He clearly has much to hide."

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Powell lays out case against Iraq to U.N. continued

that have been outstanding since 1998.”

My second purpose today is to provide you with additional information, to share with you what the United States knows about Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction as well as Iraq’s involvement in terrorism, which is also the subject of Resolution 1441 and other earlier resolutions.

I might add at this point that we are providing all relevant information we can to the inspection teams for them to do their work.

The material I will present to you comes from a variety of sources. Some are U.S. sources. And some are those of other countries. Some of the sources are technical, such as intercepted telephone conversations and photos taken by satellites. Other sources are people who have risked their lives to let the world know what Saddam Hussein is really up to.

I cannot tell you everything that we know. But what I can share with you, when combined with what all of us have learned over the years, is deeply troubling.

What you will see is an accumulation of facts and disturbing patterns of behavior. The facts on Iraq’s behavior demonstrate that Saddam Hussein and his regime have made no effort — no effort — to disarm as required by the international community.

Indeed, the facts and Iraq’s behavior show that Saddam Hussein and his regime are concealing their efforts to produce more weapons of mass destruction.

Let me begin by playing a tape for you. What you’re about to hear is a conversation that my government monitored. It takes place on November 26 of last year, on the day before United Nations teams resumed inspections in Iraq.

The conversation involves two senior officers, a colonel and a brigadier general, from Iraq’s elite military unit, the Republican Guard.

[Following is a U.S. translation of that taped conversation.]

GEN: Yeah.

COL: About this committee that is coming...

GEN: Yeah, yeah.

COL: ...with Mohamed ElBaradei [Director, International Atomic Energy Agency]

GEN: Yeah, yeah.

COL: Yeah.

GEN: Yeah?

COL: We have this modified vehicle.

GEN: Yeah.

COL: What do we say if one of them sees it?

GEN: You didn’t get a modified... You don’t have a modified...

COL: By God, I have one.

GEN: Which? From the workshop...?

COL: From the al-Kindi Company

GEN: What?

COL: From al-Kindi.

GEN: Yeah, yeah. I’ll come to you in the morning. I have some comments. I’m worried you all have something left.

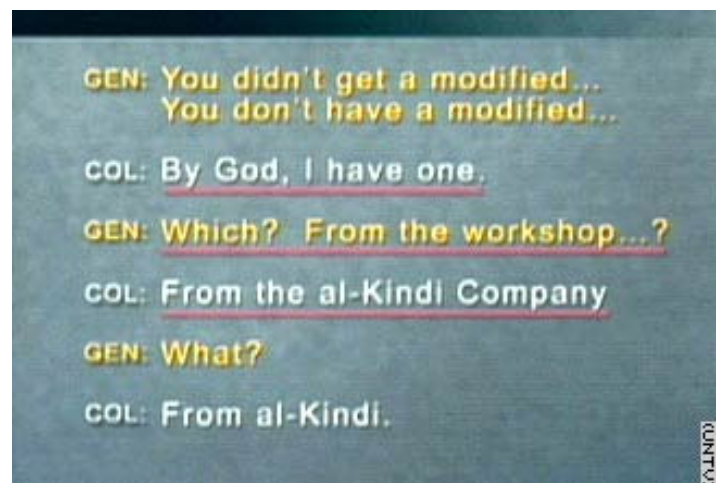
COL: We evacuated everything. We

don’t have anything left.

GEN: I will come to you tomorrow.

COL: Okay.

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As part of his presentation, Powell used this visual display of a U.S.-translated conversation. Powell said it was a colonel and brigadier general of Iraq’s elite Republican Guard discussing hiding a vehicle before U.N. weapons inspectors arrived to search a site.

Powell lays out case against Iraq to U.N. continued

GEN: I have a conference at Headquarters, before I attend the conference I will come to you.

Let me pause and review some of the key elements of this conversation that you just heard between these two officers.

First, they acknowledge that our colleague, Mohamed ElBaradei, is coming, and they know what he's coming for, and they know he's coming the next day. He's coming to look for things that are prohibited. He is expecting these gentlemen to cooperate with him and not hide things.

But they're worried. "We have this modified vehicle. What do we say if one of them sees it?"

What is their concern? Their concern is that it's something they should not have, something that should not be seen.

The general is incredulous: "You didn't get a modified. You don't have one of those, do you?"

"I have one."

"Which, from where?"

"From the workshop, from the al-Kindi Company?"

"What?"

"From al-Kindi."

"I'll come to see you in the morning. I'm worried. You all have something left."

"We evacuated everything. We don't have anything left."

Note what he says: "We evacuated everything."

We didn't destroy it. We didn't line it up for inspection. We didn't turn it into the inspectors. We evacuated it to make sure it was not around when the inspectors showed up.

"I will come to you tomorrow."

The al-Kindi Company: This is a company that is well known to have been involved in prohibited weapons systems activity.

Let me play another tape for you. As you will recall, the inspectors found 12 empty chemical warheads on January 16. On January 20, four days later, Iraq promised the inspectors it would search for more. You will now hear an officer from Republican Guard headquarters issuing an instruction to an officer in the field. Their

conversation took place just last week on January 30.

Let me pause again and review the elements of this message.

"They're inspecting the ammunition you have, yes."

"Yes."

"For the possibility there are forbidden ammo."

"For the possibility there is by chance forbidden ammo?"

"Yes."

"And we sent you a message yesterday to clean out all of the areas, the scrap areas, the abandoned areas. Make sure there is nothing there."

Remember the first message, evacuated.

This is all part of a system of hiding things and moving things out of the way and making sure they have left nothing behind.

If you go a little further into this message, and you see the specific instructions from headquarters: "After you have carried out what is contained in this message, destroy the message because I don't want anyone to see this message."

"OK, OK."

Why? Why?

This message would have verified to the inspectors that they have been trying to turn over things. They were looking for things. But they don't want that message seen, because they were trying to clean up the area to leave no evidence behind of the presence of weapons of mass destruction. And they can claim that nothing was there. And the inspectors can look all they want, and they will find nothing.

This effort to hide things from the inspectors is not one or two isolated events, quite the contrary. This is part and parcel of a policy of evasion and deception that goes back 12 years, a policy set at the highest levels of the Iraqi regime.

We know that Saddam Hussein has what is called "a higher committee for monitoring the inspections teams." Think about that. Iraq has a high-level committee to monitor the inspectors who were sent in to monitor Iraq's disarmament.

Not to cooperate with them, not to assist them, but to spy on them

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Powell lays out case against Iraq to U.N. continued

and keep them from doing their jobs.

The committee reports directly to Saddam Hussein. It is headed by Iraq's vice president, Taha Yassin Ramadan. Its members include Saddam Hussein's son Qusay.

This committee also includes Lt. Gen. Amir al-Saadi, an adviser to Saddam. In case that name isn't immediately familiar to you, Gen. Saadi has been the Iraqi regime's primary point of contact for Dr. Blix and Dr. ElBaradei. It was Gen. Saadi who last fall publicly pledged that Iraq was prepared to cooperate unconditionally with inspectors. Quite the contrary, Saadi's job is not to cooperate, it is to deceive; not to disarm, but to undermine the inspectors; not to support them, but to frustrate them and to make sure they learn nothing.

We have learned a lot about the work of this special committee. We learned that just prior to the return of inspectors last November the regime had decided to resume what we heard called, "the old game of cat and mouse."

For example, let me focus on the now famous declaration that Iraq submitted to this council on December 7. Iraq never had any intention of complying with this council's mandate.

Instead, Iraq planned to use the declaration, overwhelm us and to overwhelm the inspectors with useless information about Iraq's permitted weapons so that we would not have time to pursue Iraq's prohibited weapons. Iraq's goal was to give us, in this room, to give those of us on this council the false impression that the inspection process was working.

You saw the result. Dr. Blix pronounced the 12,200-page declaration, rich in volume, but poor in information and practically devoid of new evidence.

Could any member of this council honestly rise in defense of this false declaration?

Everything we have seen and heard indicates that, instead of cooperating actively with the inspectors to ensure the success of their mission, Saddam Hussein and his regime are busy doing all they possibly can to ensure that inspectors succeed in finding absolutely nothing.

My colleagues, every statement I make today is backed up by sources, solid sources. These are not assertions. What we're giving you are facts and conclusions based on solid intelligence. I will cite some examples, and these are from human sources.

Orders were issued to Iraq's security organizations, as well as to Saddam Hussein's own office, to hide all correspondence with the Organization of Military Industrialization.

This is the organization that oversees Iraq's weapons of mass destruction activities. Make sure there are no documents left which could connect you to the OMI.

We know that Saddam's son, Qusay, ordered the removal of all



Students at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy, from left, James Murphy, of Norwood, Mass., Miguel Ameigeiras, of San Diego, Calif., and Peter Soelling, of Copenhagen, Denmark, watch U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's televised address to the United Nations Security Council at Tufts University in Medford, Mass., Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003. (AP Photo/Josh Reynolds)

prohibited weapons from Saddam's numerous palace complexes. We know that Iraqi government officials, members of the ruling Baath Party and scientists have hidden prohibited items in their homes. Other key files from military and scientific establishments have been placed in cars that are being driven around the countryside by Iraqi intelligence agents to avoid detection.

Thanks to intelligence they were provided, the inspectors recently found dramatic confirmation of these reports. When they searched the home of an Iraqi nuclear scientist, they uncovered roughly 2,000 pages of documents. You see them here being brought out of the home and placed in U.N. hands. Some of the material is

classified and related to Iraq's nuclear program.

Tell me, answer me, are the inspectors to search the house of every government official, every Baath Party member and every scientist in the country to find the truth, to get the information they need, to satisfy the demands of our council?

Our sources tell us that, in some cases, the hard drives of computers at Iraqi weapons facilities were replaced. Who took the hard drives. Where did they go? What's being hidden? Why? There's only one answer to the why: to deceive, to hide, to keep from the inspectors.

Numerous human sources tell us that the Iraqis are moving, not just documents and hard drives, but weapons of mass destruction to keep them from being found by inspectors.

While we were here in this council chamber debating Resolution 1441 last fall, we know, we know from sources that a missile brigade outside Baghdad was disbursing rocket launchers and warheads containing biological warfare agents to various locations,

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Powell lays out case against Iraq to U.N. continued

distributing them to various locations in western Iraq. Most of the launchers and warheads have been hidden in large groves of palm trees and were to be moved every one to four weeks to escape detection.

We also have satellite photos that indicate that banned materials have recently been moved from a number of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction facilities.

Let me say a word about satellite images before I show a couple. The photos that I am about to show you are sometimes hard for the average person to interpret, hard for me. The painstaking work of photo analysis takes experts with years and years of experience, pouring for hours and hours over light tables. But as I show you these images, I will try to capture and explain what they mean, what they indicate to our imagery specialists.

Let's look at one. This one is about a weapons munition facility, a facility that holds ammunition at a place called Taji (ph). This is one of about 65 such facilities in Iraq. We know that this one has housed chemical munitions. In fact, this is where the Iraqis recently came up with the additional four chemical weapon shells.

Here, you see 15 munitions bunkers in yellow and red outlines. The four that are in red squares represent active chemical munitions bunkers.

How do I know that? How can I say that? Let me give you a closer look. Look at the image on the left. On the left is a close-up of one of the four chemical bunkers. The two arrows indicate the presence of sure signs that the bunkers are storing chemical munitions. The arrow at the top that says security points to a facility that is the signature item for this kind of bunker. Inside that facility are special

guards and special equipment to monitor any leakage that might come out of the bunker.

The truck you also see is a signature item. It's a decontamination vehicle in case something goes wrong.

This is characteristic of those four bunkers. The special security facility and the decontamination vehicle will be in the area, if not at any one of them or one of the other, it is moving around those four, and it moves as it needed to move, as people are working in the different bunkers.

Now look at the picture on the right. You are now looking at two of those sanitized bunkers. The signature vehicles are gone, the tents are gone, it's been cleaned up, and it was done on the 22nd of December, as the U.N. inspection team is arriving, and you can see the inspection vehicles arriving in the lower portion of the picture on the right.

The bunkers are clean when the inspectors get there. They found nothing.

This sequence of events raises the worrisome suspicion that Iraq had been tipped off to the forthcoming inspections at Taji (ph). As it did throughout the 1990s, we know that Iraq today is actively using its considerable intelligence capabilities to hide its illicit activities. From our sources, we know that inspectors are under constant surveillance by an army of Iraqi intelligence operatives.

Iraq is relentlessly attempting to tap all of their communications, both voice and electronics.

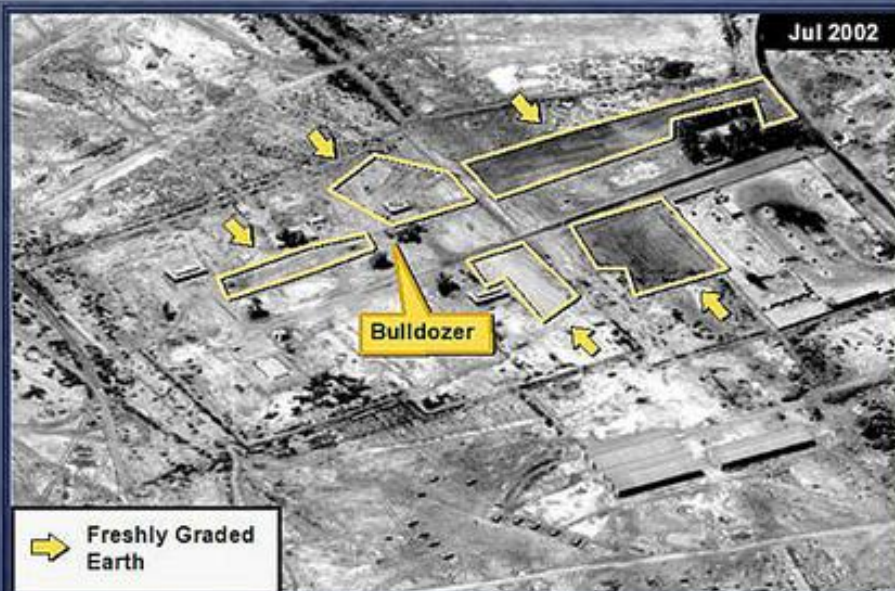
I would call my colleagues attention to the fine paper that United Kingdom distributed yesterday, which describes in exquisite detail

Iraqi deception activities.

In this next example, you will see the type of concealment activity Iraq has undertaken in response to the resumption of inspections. Indeed, in November 2002, just when the inspections were about to resume this type of activity spiked. Here are three examples.

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Bulldozed and Freshly Graded Earth, Al-Musayyib Chemical Complex



One of the slides that Secretary of State Colin Powell displayed during his presentation to the Security Council at the United Nations in New York on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003, is seen in this handout photo from the State Department. (AP Photo/Department of State, HO)

Powell lays out case against Iraq to U.N. continued

At this ballistic missile site, on November 10, we saw a cargo truck preparing to move ballistic missile components. At this biological weapons related facility, on November 25, just two days before inspections resumed, this truck caravan appeared, something we almost never see at this facility, and we monitor it carefully and regularly.

At this ballistic missile facility, again, two days before inspections began, five large cargo trucks appeared along with the truck-mounted crane to move missiles. We saw this kind of house cleaning at close to 30 sites.

Days after this activity, the vehicles and the equipment that I've just highlighted disappear and the site returns to patterns of normalcy. We don't know precisely what Iraq was moving, but the inspectors already knew about these sites, so Iraq knew that they would be coming.

We must ask ourselves: Why would Iraq suddenly move equipment of this nature before inspections if they were anxious to demonstrate what they had or did not have?

Remember the first intercept in which two Iraqis talked about the need to hide a modified vehicle from the inspectors. Where did Iraq take all of this equipment? Why wasn't it presented to the inspectors?

Iraq also has refused to permit any U-2 reconnaissance flights that would give the inspectors a better sense of what's being moved before, during and after inspectors.

This refusal to allow this kind of reconnaissance is in direct, specific violation of operative paragraph seven of our Resolution 1441.

Saddam Hussein and his regime are not just trying to conceal weapons, they're also trying to hide people. You know the basic facts. Iraq has not complied with its obligation to allow immediate, unimpeded, unrestricted and private access to all officials and other persons as required by Resolution 1441.

The regime only allows interviews with inspectors in the presence of an Iraqi official, a minder. The official Iraqi organization charged with facilitating inspections announced, announced publicly and announced ominously that, quote, "Nobody is ready to leave Iraq to be interviewed."

Iraqi Vice President Ramadan accused the inspectors of conducting espionage, a veiled threat that anyone cooperating with U.N. inspectors was committing treason.

Iraq did not meet its obligations under 1441 to provide a

comprehensive list of scientists associated with its weapons of mass destruction programs. Iraq's list was out of date and contained only about 500 names, despite the fact that UNSCOM had earlier put together a list of about 3,500 names.

Let me just tell you what a number of human sources have told us.



Saddam Hussein has directly participated in the effort to prevent interviews. In early December, Saddam Hussein had all Iraqi scientists warned of the serious consequences that they and their families would face if they revealed any sensitive information to the inspectors. They were forced to sign documents acknowledging that divulging information is punishable by death.

Saddam Hussein also said that scientists should be told not to agree to leave Iraq; anyone who agreed to be interviewed outside Iraq would be treated as a spy. This violates 1441.

In mid-November, just before the inspectors returned, Iraqi experts were ordered to report to the headquarters of the special security organization to receive counterintelligence training.

The training focused on evasion methods, interrogation resistance techniques, and how to mislead inspectors.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are not assertions. These are facts, corroborated by many sources, some of them sources of the intelligence services of other countries.

For example, in mid-December weapons experts at one facility were replaced by Iraqi intelligence agents who were to deceive inspectors about the work that was being done there.

On orders from Saddam Hussein, Iraqi officials issued a false death certificate for one scientist, and he was sent into hiding.

In the middle of January, experts at one facility that was related to weapons of mass destruction, those experts had been ordered to stay home from work to avoid the inspectors. Workers from other Iraqi military facilities not engaged in illicit weapons projects were to replace the workers who'd been sent home. A dozen experts have been placed under house arrest, not in their own houses, but as a group at one of Saddam Hussein's guest houses. It goes on and on and on.

As the examples I have just presented show, the information and

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Powell lays out case against Iraq to U.N. continued

intelligence we have gathered point to an active and systematic effort on the part of the Iraqi regime to keep key materials and people from the inspectors in direct violation of Resolution 1441. The pattern is not just one of reluctant cooperation, nor is it merely a lack of cooperation. What we see is a deliberate campaign to prevent any meaningful inspection work.

My colleagues, operative paragraph four of U.N. Resolution 1441, which we lingered over so long last fall, clearly states that false statements and omissions in the declaration and a failure by Iraq at any time to comply with and cooperate fully in the implementation of this resolution shall constitute — the facts speak for themselves — shall constitute a further material breach of its obligation.

We wrote it this way to give Iraq an early test — to give Iraq an early test. Would they give an honest declaration and would they early on indicate a willingness to cooperate with the inspectors? It was designed to be an early test.

They failed that test. By this standard, the standard of this operative paragraph, I believe that Iraq is now in further material breach of its obligations. I believe this conclusion is irrefutable and undeniable.

Iraq has now placed itself in danger of the serious consequences called for in U.N. Resolution 1441. And this body places itself in danger of irrelevance if it allows Iraq to continue to defy its will without responding effectively and immediately.

The issue before us is not how much time we are willing to give the inspectors to be frustrated by Iraqi obstruction. But how much longer are we willing to put up with Iraq's noncompliance before we, as a council, we, as the United Nations, say: "Enough. Enough."

The gravity of this moment is matched by the gravity of the threat that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction pose to the world. Let me now turn to those deadly weapons programs and describe why they are real and present dangers to the region and to the world.

First, biological weapons. We have talked frequently here about biological weapons. By way of introduction and history, I think there are just three quick points I need to make.

First, you will recall that it took UNSCOM four long and frustrating years to pry — to pry — an admission out of Iraq that it had biological weapons.

Second, when Iraq finally admitted having these weapons in 1995, the quantities were vast. Less than a teaspoon of dry anthrax, a little bit about this amount — this is just about the amount of a teaspoon — less than a teaspoon full of dry anthrax in an envelope shutdown the United States Senate in the fall of 2001. This forced several hundred people to undergo emergency medical treatment and killed two postal workers just from an amount just about this quantity that was inside of an envelope.

Iraq declared 8,500 liters of anthrax, but UNSCOM estimates that Saddam Hussein could have produced 25,000 liters. If concentrated into this dry form, this amount would be enough to fill tens upon



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell holds up a vial that he said could contain anthrax as he addresses the United Nations Security Council Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003, at U.N. headquarters. (AP Photo/Kathy Willens).

tens upon tens of thousands of teaspoons. And Saddam Hussein has not verifiably accounted for even one teaspoon-full of this deadly material.

And that is my third point. And it is key. The Iraqis have never accounted for all of the biological weapons they admitted they had and we know they had. They have never accounted for all the organic material used to make them. And they have not accounted for many of the weapons filled with these agents such as there are 400 bombs. This is evidence, not conjecture. This is true. This is all well-documented.

Dr. Blix told this council that Iraq has provided little evidence to verify anthrax production and no convincing evidence of its destruction. It should come as no shock then, that since Saddam Hussein forced out the last inspectors in 1998, we have amassed

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Powell lays out case against Iraq to U.N. continued

much intelligence indicating that Iraq is continuing to make these weapons.

One of the most worrisome things that emerges from the thick intelligence file we have on Iraq's biological weapons is the existence of mobile production facilities used to make biological agents.

Let me take you inside that intelligence file and share with you what we know from eye witness accounts. We have firsthand descriptions of biological weapons factories on wheels and on rails.

The trucks and train cars are easily moved and are designed to evade detection by inspectors. In a matter of months, they can produce a quantity of biological poison equal to the entire amount that Iraq claimed to have produced in the years prior to the Gulf War.

Although Iraq's mobile production program began in the mid-1990s, U.N. inspectors at the time only had vague hints of such programs. Confirmation came later, in the year 2000.

The source was an eye witness, an Iraqi chemical engineer who supervised one of these facilities. He actually was present during biological agent production runs. He was also at the site when an accident occurred in 1998. Twelve technicians died from exposure to biological agents.

He reported that when UNSCOM was in country and inspecting, the biological weapons agent production always began on Thursdays at midnight because Iraq thought UNSCOM would not inspect on the Muslim Holy Day, Thursday night through Friday. He added that this was important because the units could not be broken down in the middle of a production run, which had to be completed by Friday evening before the inspectors might arrive again.

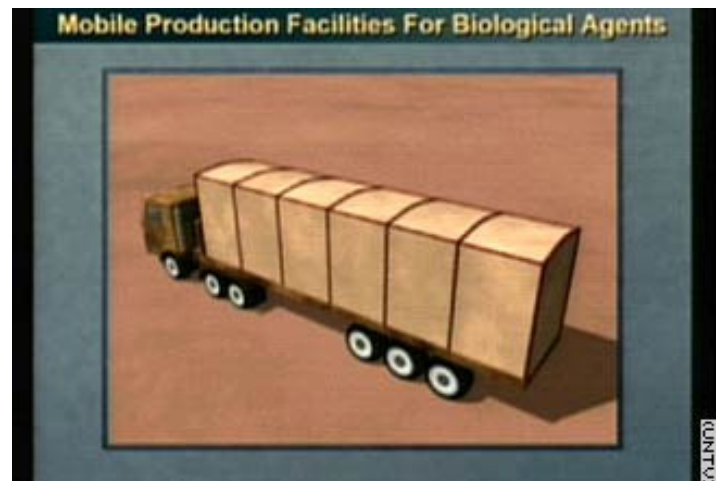
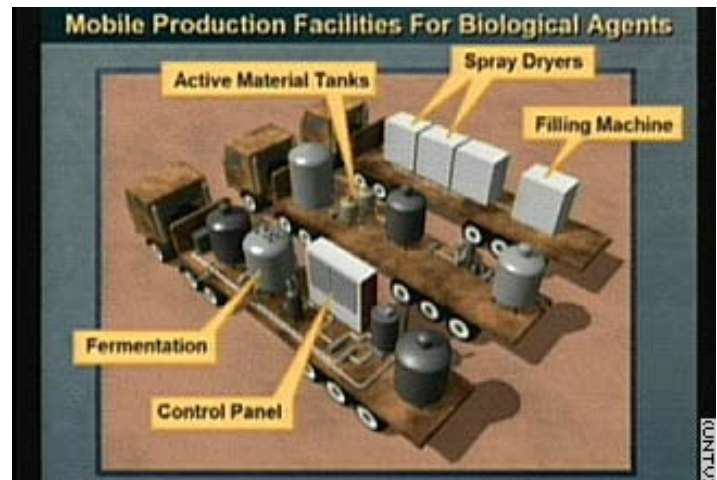
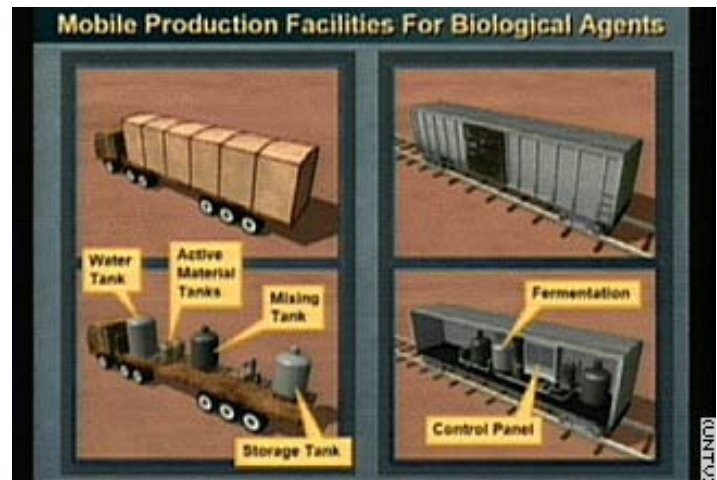
This defector is currently hiding in another country with the certain knowledge that Saddam Hussein will kill him if he finds him. His eye-witness account of these mobile production facilities has been corroborated by other sources.

A second source, an Iraqi civil engineer in a position to know the details of the program, confirmed the existence of transportable facilities moving on trailers.

A third source, also in a position to know, reported in summer 2002 that Iraq had manufactured mobile production systems mounted on road trailer units and on rail cars.

Finally, a fourth source, an Iraqi major, who defected, confirmed that Iraq has mobile biological research laboratories, in addition to the production facilities I mentioned earlier.

We have diagrammed what our sources reported about these mobile facilities. Here you see both truck and rail car-mounted mobile factories. The description our sources gave us of the technical features required by such facilities are highly detailed and extremely accurate. As these drawings based on their description show, we know what the fermenters look like, we know what the tanks, pumps,



Powell described and showed in a series of three drawings what he said are mobile biological weapons manufacturing labs.

compressors and other parts look like. We know how they fit together. We know how they work. And we know a great deal about the platforms on which they are mounted.

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Powell lays out case against Iraq to U.N. continued

As shown in this diagram, these factories can be concealed easily, either by moving ordinary-looking trucks and rail cars along Iraq's thousands of miles of highway or track, or by parking them in a garage or warehouse or somewhere in Iraq's extensive system of underground tunnels and bunkers.

We know that Iraq has at least seven of these mobile biological agent factories. The truck-mounted ones have at least two or three trucks each. That means that the mobile production facilities are very few, perhaps 18 trucks that we know of — there may be more — but perhaps 18 that we know of. Just imagine trying to find 18 trucks among the thousands and thousands of trucks that travel the roads of Iraq every single day.

It took the inspectors four years to find out that Iraq was making biological agents. How long do you think it will take the inspectors to find even one of these 18 trucks without Iraq coming forward, as they are supposed to, with the information about these kinds of capabilities?

Ladies and gentlemen, these are sophisticated facilities. For example, they can produce anthrax and botulism toxin. In fact, they can produce enough dry biological agent in a single month to kill thousands upon thousands of people. And dry agent of this type is the most lethal form for human beings.

By 1998, U.N. experts agreed that the Iraqis had perfected drying techniques for their biological weapons programs. Now, Iraq has incorporated this drying expertise into these mobile production facilities.

We know from Iraq's past admissions that it has successfully weaponized not only anthrax, but also other biological agents, including botulism toxin, aflatoxin and ricin.

But Iraq's research efforts did not stop there. Saddam Hussein has investigated dozens of biological agents causing diseases such as gas gangrene, plague, typhus, tetanus, cholera, camelpox and hemorrhagic fever, and he also has the wherewithal to develop smallpox.

The Iraqi regime has also developed ways to disburse lethal biological agents, widely and discriminately into the water supply, into the air. For example, Iraq had a program to modify aerial fuel tanks for Mirage jets. This video of an Iraqi test flight obtained by UNSCOM some years ago shows an Iraqi F-1 Mirage jet aircraft. Note the spray coming from beneath the Mirage; that is 2,000 liters of simulated anthrax that a jet is spraying.

In 1995, an Iraqi military officer, Mujahid Sali Abdul Latif (ph), told inspectors that Iraq intended the spray tanks to be mounted onto a MiG-21 that had been converted into an unmanned aerial vehicle, or a UAV. UAVs outfitted with spray tanks constitute an ideal method for launching a terrorist attack using biological weapons.

Iraq admitted to producing four spray tanks. But to this day, it has provided no credible evidence that they were destroyed, evidence that was required by the international community.

There can be no doubt that Saddam Hussein has biological weapons and the capability to rapidly produce more, many more. And he has the ability to dispense these lethal poisons and diseases in ways that can cause massive death and destruction. If biological weapons seem too terrible to contemplate, chemical weapons are equally chilling.

UNMOVIC already laid out much of this, and it is documented for all of us to read in UNSCOM's 1999 report on the subject.

Let me set the stage with three key points that all of us need to keep in mind: First, Saddam Hussein has used these horrific weapons on another country and on his own people. In fact, in the history of chemical warfare, no country has had more battlefield experience with chemical weapons since World War I than Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Second, as with biological weapons, Saddam Hussein has never accounted for vast amounts of chemical weaponry: 550 artillery shells with mustard, 30,000 empty munitions and enough precursors to increase his stockpile to as much as 500 tons of chemical agents. If we consider just one category of missing weaponry — 6,500 bombs from the Iran-Iraq war — UNMOVIC says the amount of chemical agent in them would be in the order of 1,000 tons. These quantities of chemical weapons are now unaccounted for.

Dr. Blix has quipped that, quote, "Mustard gas is not (inaudible) You are supposed to know what you did with it."

We believe Saddam Hussein knows what he did with it, and he has not come clean with the international community. We have evidence these weapons existed. What we don't have is evidence from Iraq that they have been destroyed or where they are. That is what we are still waiting for.

Third point, Iraq's record on chemical weapons is replete with lies. It took years for Iraq to finally admit that it had produced four tons of the deadly nerve agent, VX. A single drop of VX on the skin will kill in minutes. Four tons.

The admission only came out after inspectors collected documentation as a result of the defection of Hussein Kamal, Saddam Hussein's late son-in-law. UNSCOM also gained forensic evidence that Iraq had produced VX and put it into weapons for delivery. Yet, to this day, Iraq denies it had ever weaponized VX.

And on January 27, UNMOVIC told this council that it has information that conflicts with the Iraqi account of its VX program.

We know that Iraq has embedded key portions of its illicit chemical weapons infrastructure within its legitimate civilian industry. To all outward appearances, even to experts, the infrastructure looks like an ordinary civilian operation. Illicit and legitimate production can go on simultaneously; or, on a dime, this dual-use infrastructure can

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turn from clandestine to commercial and then back again.

These inspections would be unlikely, any inspections of such facilities would be unlikely to turn up anything prohibited, especially if there is any warning that the inspections are coming. Call it ingenuous or evil genius, but the Iraqis deliberately designed their chemical weapons programs to be inspected. It is infrastructure with a built-in ally.

Under the guise of dual-use infrastructure, Iraq has undertaken an effort to reconstitute facilities that were closely associated with its past program to develop and produce chemical weapons.

For example, Iraq has rebuilt key portions of the Tariq state establishment. Tariq includes facilities designed specifically for Iraq's chemical weapons program and employs key figures from past programs.

That's the production end of Saddam's chemical weapons business.

What about the delivery end?

I'm going to show you a small part of a chemical complex called al-Moussaid (ph), a site that Iraq has used for at least three years to transship chemical weapons from production facilities out to the field.

In May 2002, our satellites photographed the unusual activity in this picture. Here we see cargo vehicles are again at this transshipment point, and we can see that they are accompanied by a decontamination vehicle associated with biological or chemical weapons activity.

What makes this picture significant is that we have a human source who has corroborated that movement of chemical weapons occurred at this site at that time. So it's not just the photo, and it's not an individual seeing the photo. It's the photo and then the knowledge of an individual being brought together to make the case.

This photograph of the site taken two months later in July shows not only the previous site, which is the figure in the middle at the top with the bulldozer sign near it, it shows that this previous site, as well as all of the other sites around the site, have been fully bulldozed and graded. The topsoil has been removed. The Iraqis literally removed the crust of the earth from large portions of this site in order to conceal chemical weapons evidence that would be there from years of chemical weapons activity.

To support its deadly biological and chemical weapons programs, Iraq procures needed items from around the world using an extensive clandestine network. What we know comes largely from intercepted communications and human sources who are in a position to know the facts.

Iraq's procurement efforts include equipment that can filter and separate micro-organisms and toxins involved in biological weapons, equipment that can be used to concentrate the agent, growth media that can be used to continue producing anthrax and botulism toxin, sterilization equipment for laboratories, glass-lined reactors and



House Majority Leader Tom Delay, R-Texas, speaks to reporters as he expresses his support for Secretary of State Colin Powell's presentation to the United Nations regarding the use of force in Iraq at the Capitol in Washington Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

specialty pumps that can handle corrosive chemical weapons agents and recursors, large amounts of vinyl chloride, a precursor for nerve and blister agents, and other chemicals such as sodium sulfide, an important mustard agent precursor.

Now, of course, Iraq will argue that these items can also be used for legitimate purposes. But if that is true, why do we have to learn about them by intercepting communications and risking the lives of human agents? With Iraq's well documented history on biological and chemical weapons, why should any of us give Iraq the benefit of the doubt? I don't, and I don't think you will either after you hear this next intercept.

Just a few weeks ago, we intercepted communications between two commanders in Iraq's Second Republican Guard Corps. One commander is going to be giving an instruction to the other. You will hear as this unfolds that what he wants to communicate to the other guy, he wants to make sure the other guy hears clearly, to the point of repeating it so that it gets written down and completely understood. Listen.

(BEGINAUDIOTAPE)

(Speaking in Foreign Language.)

(ENDAUDIOTAPE)

Let's review a few selected items of this conversation.

Two officers talking to each other on the radio want to make sure that nothing is misunderstood:

"Remove. Remove."

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Powell lays out case against Iraq to U.N. continued

The expression, the expression, “I got it.”

“Nerve agents. Nerve agents. Wherever it comes up.”

“Got it.”

“Wherever it comes up.”

“In the wireless instructions, in the instructions.”

“Correction. No. In the wireless instructions.”

“Wireless. I got it.”

Why does he repeat it that way? Why is he so forceful in making sure this is understood? And why did he focus on wireless instructions? Because the senior officer is concerned that somebody might be listening.

Well, somebody was.

“Nerve agents. Stop talking about it. They are listening to us. Don’t give any evidence that we have these horrible agents.”

Well, we know that they do. And this kind of conversation confirms it.

Our conservative estimate is that Iraq today has a stockpile of between 100 and 500 tons of chemical weapons agent. That is enough agent to fill 16,000 battlefield rockets.

Even the low end of 100 tons of agent would enable Saddam Hussein to cause mass casualties across more than 100 square miles of territory, an area nearly five times the size of Manhattan.

Let me remind you that, of the 122 millimeter chemical warheads, that the U.N. inspectors found recently, this discovery could very well be, as has been noted, the tip of the submerged iceberg. The question before us, all my friends, is when will we see the rest of the submerged iceberg?

Saddam Hussein has chemical weapons. Saddam Hussein has used such weapons. And Saddam Hussein has no compunction about using them again, against his neighbors and against his own people.

And we have sources who tell us that he recently has authorized his field commanders to use them. He wouldn’t be passing out the orders if he didn’t have the weapons or the intent to use them.

We also have sources who tell us that, since the 1980s, Saddam’s regime has been experimenting on human beings to perfect its biological or chemical weapons.

A source said that 1,600 death row prisoners were transferred in 1995 to a special unit for such experiments. An eye witness saw prisoners tied down to beds, experiments conducted on them, blood oozing around the victim’s mouths and autopsies performed to confirm the effects on the prisoners. Saddam Hussein’s humanity — inhumanity has no limits.

Let me turn now to nuclear weapons. We have no indication that Saddam Hussein has ever abandoned his nuclear weapons program.

On the contrary, we have more than a decade of proof that he remains determined to acquire nuclear weapons.

To fully appreciate the challenge that we face today, remember that, in 1991, the inspectors searched Iraq’s primary nuclear weapons facilities for the first time. And they found nothing to conclude that Iraq had a nuclear weapons program.

But based on defector information in May of 1991, Saddam Hussein’s lie was exposed. In truth, Saddam Hussein had a massive clandestine nuclear weapons program that covered several different techniques to enrich uranium, including electromagnetic isotope separation, gas centrifuge, and gas diffusion. We estimate that this elicit program cost the Iraqis several billion dollars.

Nonetheless, Iraq continued to tell the IAEA that it had no nuclear weapons program. If Saddam had not been stopped, Iraq could have produced a nuclear bomb by 1993, years earlier than most worse-case assessments that had been made before the war.

In 1995, as a result of another defector, we find out that, after his invasion of Kuwait, Saddam Hussein had initiated a crash program to build a crude nuclear weapon in violation of Iraq’s U.N. obligations.

Saddam Hussein already possesses two out of the three key components needed to build a nuclear bomb. He has a cadre of nuclear scientists with the expertise, and he has a bomb design.

Since 1998, his efforts to reconstitute his nuclear program have been focused on acquiring the third and last component, sufficient fissile material to produce a nuclear explosion. To make the fissile material, he needs to develop an ability to enrich uranium.

Saddam Hussein is determined to get his hands on a nuclear bomb.

He is so determined that he has made repeated covert attempts to acquire high-specification aluminum tubes from 11 different countries, even after inspections resumed.

These tubes are controlled by the Nuclear Suppliers Group precisely because they can be used as centrifuges for enriching uranium. By now, just about everyone has heard of these tubes, and we all know that there are differences of opinion. There is controversy about what these tubes are for.

Most U.S. experts think they are intended to serve as rotors in centrifuges used to enrich uranium. Other experts, and the Iraqis themselves, argue that they are really to produce the rocket bodies for a conventional weapon, a multiple rocket launcher.

Let me tell you what is not controversial about these tubes.

First, all the experts who have analyzed the tubes in our possession

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agree that they can be adapted for centrifuge use. Second, Iraq had no business buying them for any purpose. They are banned for Iraq.

I am no expert on centrifuge tubes, but just as an old Army trooper, I can tell you a couple of things: First, it strikes me as quite odd that these tubes are manufactured to a tolerance that far exceeds U.S. requirements for comparable rockets.

Maybe Iraqis just manufacture their conventional weapons to a higher standard than we do, but I don't think so.

Second, we actually have examined tubes from several different batches that were seized clandestinely before they reached Baghdad. What we notice in these different batches is a progression to higher and higher levels of specification, including, in the latest batch, an anodized coating on extremely smooth inner and outer surfaces. Why would they continue refining the specifications, go to all that trouble for something that, if it was a rocket, would soon be blown into shrapnel when it went off?

The high tolerance aluminum tubes are only part of the story. We also have intelligence from multiple sources that Iraq is attempting to acquire magnets and high-speed balancing machines; both items can be used in a gas centrifuge program to enrich uranium.

In 1999 and 2000, Iraqi officials negotiated with firms in Romania, India, Russia and Slovenia for the purchase of a magnet production plant. Iraq wanted the plant to produce magnets weighing 20 to 30 grams. That's the same weight as the magnets used in Iraq's gas centrifuge program before the Gulf War. This incident linked with the tubes is another indicator of Iraq's attempt to reconstitute its nuclear weapons program.

Intercepted communications from mid-2000 through last summer show that Iraq front companies sought to buy machines that can be used to balance gas centrifuge rotors. One of these companies also had been involved in a failed effort in 2001 to smuggle aluminum tubes into Iraq.

People will continue to debate this issue, but there is no doubt in my mind, these elicited procurement efforts show that Saddam Hussein is very much focused on putting in place the key missing piece from his nuclear weapons program, the ability to produce fissile material.

He also has been busy trying to maintain the other key parts of his nuclear program, particularly his cadre of key nuclear scientists.

It is noteworthy that, over the last 18 months, Saddam Hussein has paid increasing personal attention to Iraq's top nuclear scientists, a group that the governmental-controlled press calls openly, his nuclear mujahedeen. He regularly exhorts them and praises their progress. Progress toward what end?

Long ago, the Security Council, this council, required Iraq to halt all nuclear activities of any kind.

Let me talk now about the systems Iraq is developing to deliver

weapons of mass destruction, in particular Iraq's ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles, UAVs.

First, missiles. We all remember that before the Gulf War Saddam Hussein's goal was missiles that flew not just hundreds, but thousands of kilometers. He wanted to strike not only his neighbors, but also nations far beyond his borders.

While inspectors destroyed most of the prohibited ballistic missiles, numerous intelligence reports over the past decade, from sources inside Iraq, indicate that Saddam Hussein retains a covert force of up to a few dozen Scud variant ballistic missiles. These are missiles with a range of 650 to 900 kilometers.

We know from intelligence and Iraq's own admissions that Iraq's alleged permitted ballistic missiles, the al-Samud II and the al-Fatah, violate the 150-kilometer limit established by this council in Resolution 687. These are prohibited systems.

UNMOVIC has also reported that Iraq has illegally imported 380 SA-2 rocket engines. These are likely for use in the al-Samud II. Their import was illegal on three counts. Resolution 687 prohibited all military shipments into Iraq. UNSCOM specifically prohibited use of these engines in surface-to-surface missiles. And finally, as we have just noted, they are for a system that exceeds the 150-kilometer range limit.

Worst of all, some of these engines were acquired as late as December — after this council passed Resolution 1441.

What I want you to know today is that Iraq has programs that are intended to produce ballistic missiles that fly over 1,000 kilometers.

One program is pursuing a liquid fuel missile that would be able to fly more than 1,200 kilometers. And you can see from this map, as well as I can, who will be in danger of these missiles.

As part of this effort, another little piece of evidence, Iraq has built an engine test stand that is larger than anything it has ever had. Notice the dramatic difference in size between the test stand on the left, the old one, and the new one on the right. Note the large exhaust vent. This is where the flame from the engine comes out. The exhaust on the right test stand is five times longer than the one on the left. The one on the left was used for short-range missile. The one on the right is clearly intended for long-range missiles that can fly 1,200 kilometers.

This photograph was taken in April of 2002. Since then, the test stand has been finished and a roof has been put over it so it will be harder for satellites to see what's going on underneath the test stand.

Saddam Hussein's intentions have never changed. He is not developing the missiles for self-defense. These are missiles that Iraq wants in order to project power, to threaten, and to deliver

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chemical, biological and, if we let him, nuclear warheads.

Now, unmanned aerial vehicles, UAVs.

Iraq has been working on a variety of UAVs for more than a decade. This is just illustrative of what a UAV would look like.

This effort has included attempts to modify for unmanned flight the MiG-21 and with greater success an aircraft called the L-29.

However, Iraq is now concentrating not on these airplanes, but on developing and testing smaller UAVs, such as this.

UAVs are well suited for dispensing chemical and biological weapons.

There is ample evidence that Iraq has dedicated much effort to developing and testing spray devices that could be adapted for UAVs. And of the little that Saddam Hussein told us about UAVs, he has not told the truth. One of these lies is graphically and indisputably demonstrated by intelligence we collected on June 27, last year.

According to Iraq's December 7 declaration, its UAVs have a range of only 80 kilometers. But we detected one of Iraq's newest UAVs in a test flight that went 500 kilometers nonstop on autopilot in the race track pattern depicted here.

Not only is this test well in excess of the 150 kilometers that the United Nations permits, the test was left out of Iraq's December 7th declaration. The UAV was flown around and around and around in a circle. And so, that its 80 kilometer limit really was 500 kilometers unfueled and on autopilot, violative of all of its obligations under 1441.

The linkages over the past 10 years between Iraq's UAV program and biological and chemical warfare agents are of deep concern to us.

Iraq could use these small UAVs which have a wingspan of only a few meters to deliver biological agents to its neighbors or if transported, to other countries, including the United States.

My friends, the information I have presented to you about these terrible weapons and about Iraq's continued flaunting of its obligations under Security Council Resolution 1441 links to a subject I now want to spend a little bit of time on. And that has to do with terrorism.

Our concern is not just about these elicited weapons. It's the way that these elicited weapons can be connected to terrorists and terrorist

organizations that have no compunction about using such devices against innocent people around the world.

Iraq and terrorism go back decades. Baghdad trains Palestine Liberation Front members in small arms and explosives. Saddam uses the Arab Liberation Front to funnel money to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers in order to prolong the intifada. And it's no secret that Saddam's own intelligence service was involved in dozens of attacks or attempted assassinations in the 1990s.

But what I want to bring to your attention today is the potentially much more sinister nexus between Iraq and the al Qaeda terrorist

network, a nexus that combines classic terrorist organizations and modern methods of murder. Iraq today harbors a deadly terrorist network headed by Abu Musab Zarqawi, an associate and collaborator of Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda lieutenants.

Zarqawi, a Palestinian born in Jordan, fought in the Afghan war more than a decade ago. Returning to Afghanistan in 2000, he oversaw a terrorist training camp. One of his specialties of this camp is poisons. When our coalition ousted the Taliban, the Zarqawi network helped establish another poison

and explosive training center camp. And this camp is located in northeastern Iraq.

You see a picture of this camp.

The network is teaching its operatives how to produce ricin and other poisons. Let me remind you how ricin works. Less than a pinch — image a pinch of salt — less than a pinch of ricin, eating just this amount in your food, would cause shock followed by circulatory failure. Death comes within 72 hours and there is no antidote, there is no cure. It is fatal.

Those helping to run this camp are Zarqawi lieutenants operating in northern Kurdish areas outside Saddam Hussein's controlled Iraq.

But Baghdad has an agent in the most senior levels of the radical organization, Ansar al-Islam, that controls this corner of Iraq. In 2000 this agent offered al Qaeda safe haven in the region. After we swept al Qaeda from Afghanistan, some of its members accepted this safe haven. They remain there today.

Zarqawi's activities are not confined to this small corner of northeast Iraq. He traveled to Baghdad in May 2002 for medical treatment, staying in the capital of Iraq for two months while he recuperated to



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fight another day.

During this stay, nearly two dozen extremists converged on Baghdad and established a base of operations there. These al Qaeda affiliates, based in Baghdad, now coordinate the movement of people, money and supplies into and throughout Iraq for his network, and they've now been operating freely in the capital for more than eight months.

Iraqi officials deny accusations of ties with al Qaeda. These denials are simply not credible. Last year an al Qaeda associate bragged that the situation in Iraq was, quote, "good," that Baghdad could be transited quickly.

We know these affiliates are connected to Zarqawi because they remain even today in regular contact with his direct subordinates, including the poison cell plotters, and they are involved in moving more than money and materiel.

Last year, two suspected al Qaeda operatives were arrested crossing from Iraq into Saudi Arabia. They were linked to associates of the Baghdad cell, and one of them received training in Afghanistan on how to use cyanide. From his terrorist network in Iraq, Zarqawi can direct his network in the Middle East and beyond.

We, in the United States, all of us at the State Department, and the Agency for International Development — we all lost a dear friend with the cold-blooded murder of Mr. Lawrence Foley in Amman, Jordan, last October — a despicable act was committed that day. The assassination of an individual whose sole mission was to assist the people of Jordan. The captured assassin says his cell received money and weapons from Zarqawi for that murder.

After the attack, an associate of the assassin left Jordan to go to Iraq to obtain weapons and explosives for further operations. Iraqi officials protest that they are not aware of the whereabouts of Zarqawi or of any of his associates. Again, these protests are not credible. We know of Zarqawi's activities in Baghdad. I described them earlier.

And now let me add one other fact. We asked a friendly security service to approach Baghdad about extraditing Zarqawi and providing information about him and his close associates. This service contacted Iraqi officials twice, and we passed details that should have made it easy to find Zarqawi. The network remains in Baghdad. Zarqawi still remains at large to come and go.

As my colleagues around this table and as the citizens they represent in Europe know, Zarqawi's terrorism is not confined to the Middle East. Zarqawi and his network have plotted terrorist actions against countries, including France, Britain, Spain, Italy, Germany and Russia.

According to detainee Abuwatia (ph), who graduated from Zarqawi's terrorist camp in Afghanistan, [unintelligible] at least nine North African extremists from 2001 to travel to Europe to conduct poison and explosive attacks.

Since last year, members of this network have been apprehended in France, Britain, Spain and Italy. By our last count, 116 operatives connected to this global web have been arrested.

The chart you are seeing shows the network in Europe. We know about this European network, and we know about its links to Zarqawi, because the detainee who provided the information about the targets also provided the names of members of the network.

Three of those he identified by name were arrested in France last December. In the apartments of the terrorists, authorities found circuits for explosive devices and a list of ingredients to make toxins.

The detainee who helped piece this together says the plot also targeted Britain. Later evidence, again, proved him right. When the British unearthed a cell there just last month, one British police officer was murdered during the disruption of the cell.

We also know that Zarqawi's colleagues have been active in the Pankisi Gorge, Georgia and in Chechnya, Russia. The plotting to which they are linked is not mere chatter. Members of Zarqawi's network say their goal was to kill Russians with toxins.

We are not surprised that Iraq is harboring Zarqawi and his subordinates. This understanding builds on decades long experience with respect to ties between Iraq and al Qaeda.

Going back to the early and mid-1990s, when bin Laden was based in Sudan, an al Qaeda source tells us that Saddam and bin Laden reached an understanding that al Qaeda would no longer support activities against Baghdad. Early al Qaeda ties were forged by secret, high-level intelligence service contacts with al Qaeda, secret Iraqi intelligence high-level contacts with al Qaeda.

We know members of both organizations met repeatedly and have met at least eight times at very senior levels since the early 1990s. In 1996, a foreign security service tells us, that bin Laden met with a senior Iraqi intelligence official in Khartoum, and later met the director of the Iraqi intelligence service.

Saddam became more interested as he saw al Qaeda's appalling attacks. A detained al Qaeda member tells us that Saddam was more willing to assist al Qaeda after the 1998 bombings of our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Saddam was also impressed by al Qaeda's attacks on the USS Cole in Yemen in October 2000.

Iraqis continued to visit bin Laden in his new home in Afghanistan. A senior defector, one of Saddam's former intelligence chiefs in Europe, says Saddam sent his agents to Afghanistan sometime in the mid-1990s to provide training to al Qaeda members on document forgery.

From the late 1990s until 2001, the Iraqi embassy in Pakistan played the role of liaison to the al Qaeda organization.

Some believe, some claim these contacts do not amount to much.

They say Saddam Hussein's secular tyranny and al Qaeda's religious tyranny do not mix. I am not comforted by this thought. Ambition

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and hatred are enough to bring Iraq and al Qaeda together, enough so al Qaeda could learn how to build more sophisticated bombs and learn how to forge documents, and enough so that al Qaeda could turn to Iraq for help in acquiring expertise on weapons of mass destruction.

And the record of Saddam Hussein's cooperation with other Islamist terrorist organizations is clear. Hamas, for example, opened an office in Baghdad in 1999, and Iraq has hosted conferences attended by Palestine Islamic Jihad. These groups are at the forefront of sponsoring suicide attacks against Israel.

Al Qaeda continues to have a deep interest in acquiring weapons of mass destruction. As with the story of Zarqawi and his network, I can trace the story of a senior terrorist operative telling how Iraq provided training in these weapons to al Qaeda.

Fortunately, this operative is now detained, and he has told his story. I will relate it to you now as he, himself, described it.

This senior al Qaeda terrorist was responsible for one of al Qaeda's training camps in Afghanistan.

His information comes firsthand from his personal involvement at senior levels of al Qaeda. He says bin Laden and his top deputy in Afghanistan, deceased al Qaeda leader Mohammed Atef, did not believe that al Qaeda labs in Afghanistan were capable enough to manufacture these chemical or biological agents. They needed to go somewhere else. They had to look outside of Afghanistan for help. Where did they go? Where did they look? They went to Iraq.

The support that (inaudible) describes included Iraq offering chemical or biological weapons training for two al Qaeda associates beginning in December 2000. He says that a militant known as Abu Abdula Al-Iraqi (ph) had been sent to Iraq several times between 1997 and 2000 for help in acquiring poisons and gases. Abdula Al-Iraqi (ph) characterized the relationship he forged with Iraqi officials as successful.

As I said at the outset, none of this should come as a surprise to any of us. Terrorism has been a tool used by Saddam for decades. Saddam was a supporter of terrorism long before these terrorist networks had a name. And this support continues. The nexus of poisons and terror is new. The nexus of Iraq and terror is old. The combination is lethal.

With this track record, Iraqi denials of supporting terrorism take the place alongside the other Iraqi denials of weapons of mass destruction. It is all a web of lies.

When we confront a regime that harbors ambitions for regional domination, hides weapons of mass destruction and provides haven and active support for terrorists, we are not confronting the past, we are confronting the present. And unless we act, we are confronting an even more frightening future.

My friends, this has been a long and a detailed presentation.

And I thank you for your patience. But there is one more subject that I would like to touch on briefly. And it should be a subject of deep and continuing concern to this council, Saddam Hussein's violations of human rights.

Underlying all that I have said, underlying all the facts and the patterns of behavior that I have identified as Saddam Hussein's contempt for the will of this council, his contempt for the truth and most damning of all, his utter contempt for human life. Saddam Hussein's use of mustard and nerve gas against the Kurds in 1988 was one of the 20th century's most horrible atrocities; 5,000 men, women and children died.

His campaign against the Kurds from 1987 to '89 included mass summary executions, disappearances, arbitrary jailing, ethnic cleansing and the destruction of some 2,000 villages. He has also conducted ethnic cleansing against the Shiite Iraqis and the Marsh Arabs whose culture has flourished for more than a millennium. Saddam Hussein's police state ruthlessly eliminates anyone who dares to dissent. Iraq has more forced disappearance cases than any other country, tens of thousands of people reported missing in the past decade.

Nothing points more clearly to Saddam Hussein's dangerous intentions and the threat he poses to all of us than his calculated cruelty to his own citizens and to his neighbors. Clearly, Saddam Hussein and his regime will stop at nothing until something stops him.

For more than 20 years, by word and by deed Saddam Hussein has pursued his ambition to dominate Iraq and the broader Middle East using the only means he knows, intimidation, coercion and annihilation of all those who might stand in his way. For Saddam Hussein, possession of the world's most deadly weapons is the ultimate trump card, the one he most hold to fulfill his ambition.

We know that Saddam Hussein is determined to keep his weapons of mass destruction; he's determined to make more. Given Saddam Hussein's history of aggression, given what we know of his grandiose plans, given what we know of his terrorist associations and given his determination to exact revenge on those who oppose him, should we take the risk that he will not some day use these weapons at a time and the place and in the manner of his choosing at a time when the world is in a much weaker position to respond?

The United States will not and cannot run that risk to the American people. Leaving Saddam Hussein in possession of weapons of mass destruction for a few more months or years is not an option, not in a post-September 11th world.

My colleagues, over three months ago this council recognized that Iraq continued to pose a threat to international peace and security, and that Iraq had been and remained in material breach of its disarmament obligations. Today Iraq still poses a threat and Iraq still remains in material breach.

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NATO calls meeting to discuss Iraq

By PAULAMES

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - NATO called a special meeting to discuss the Iraq crisis, as pressure grew Wednesday on France and Germany to drop their veto on the alliance's starting military planning for a support role in a possible war.

NATO's policy-making North Atlantic Council will meet Thursday afternoon to discuss Secretary of State Colin Powell's address to the United Nations, where he was expected to lay out new evidence of Iraqi weapons programs and alleged links to international terrorists.

Diplomats at NATO headquarters said Powell's address Wednesday could persuade France, Germany and Belgium to end their three-week refusal to authorize preparations for supporting an Iraq war, notably by helping protect NATO-member Turkey from any Iraqi counterstrike.

France and Germany have argued that launching the military preparations is premature and could undermine U.N. efforts to secure Iraq's disarmament without a war.

But increased pressure from Turkey appeared to be having some effect already.

In Luxembourg, which also had been holding out, government spokesman Guy Schuller said his country would now back an appeal from Turkey for military help from NATO - after the Turkish Foreign Ministry called the four ambassadors in Ankara for consultations Tuesday.

Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Yusuf Buluc said his country wants a quick decision from its allies.

"We hope that this hesitation will be overcome rapidly," Buluc told reporters in Ankara. "Turkey attaches importance to the fact that the issue is not delayed any longer."

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Indeed, by its failure to seize on its one last opportunity to come clean and disarm, Iraq has put itself in deeper material breach and closer to the day when it will face serious consequences for its continued defiance of this council.

My colleagues, we have an obligation to our citizens, we have an obligation to this body to see that our resolutions are complied with. We wrote 1441 not in order to go to war, we wrote 1441 to try to preserve the peace. We wrote 1441 to give Iraq one last chance. Iraq is not so far taking that one last chance.

We must not shrink from whatever is ahead of us. We must not fail in our duty and our responsibility to the citizens of the countries that are represented by this body.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Under consideration are proposals to send to Turkey AWACS surveillance planes to monitor air traffic, including any hostile flights, and Patriot defense systems that can shoot down incoming missiles.

Those proposals were included in a package put forward by the United States three weeks ago. It also comprised plans for NATO to intensify naval patrols in the eastern Mediterranean Sea; guard U.S. bases in Europe; replace American troops sent from the Balkans to the Gulf and an eventual peacekeeping role for the alliance in a postwar Iraq.

As the likelihood of war has heightened however, Turkey has become increasingly vocal in asking its allies to back measures to protect it. The only NATO member that borders Iraq, Turkey is a likely springboard for U.S. troops opening up a northern front against Iraq.

All NATO decisions need unanimous support from the 19 allies.

Myers thanks millions of Americans for support to troops

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 2003 — America's top general thanked Americans Feb. 4 for their outpouring of support to their armed forces.

"I want to express my gratitude to the American people for sending their online thank-you note to America's service members, thanking them for defending our nation's freedoms," Myers said during a Pentagon media briefing. He said 3.7 million people to date had visited Defend America, www.defendamerica.mil, and signed its online thank-you note.

Defend America is the Defense Department's official Web site for news on the war on terrorism. Along with coverage of top national security leaders, the site also features up-to-date photographs, information on weapons and equipment, personality profiles and human-interest features.

The Web site debuted shortly after U.S. troops went into Afghanistan in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Its online thank-you note was posted in May 2002, Military Appreciation Month.

So many people have been signing the card lately that the total had climbed another 100,000 before Myers left the podium, Defend America editor Linda Kozaryn said.

"Now that people are finding out about the note, more are signing every hour," she said. "It gives them a way to show how strongly America supports her sons and daughters in uniform." She estimated the tally would exceed 4 million by today's end.

DoD officials are working out details of how to make the electronic "signatures" available for service members to see.

Saddam Hussein interview on British TV

LONDON, England — Following is the text of the interview between former Labour MP Tony Benn and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein recorded at one of the presidential palaces in Baghdad on Sunday and broadcast on Britain's Channel 4 on Tuesday. The transcript was provided by the UK Press Association.

Benn: I come for one reason only — to see whether in a talk we can explore, or you can help me to see, what the paths to peace may be. My only reason, I remember the war because I lost a brother. I never want to see another war.

There are millions of people all over the world who don't want a war, and by agreeing to this interview, which is very historic for all of us, I hope you will be able to help me be able to say something to the world that is significant and positive.

Saddam: Welcome to Baghdad. You are conscious of the role that Iraqis have set out for themselves, inspired by their own culture, their civilisation and their role in human history. This role requires peace in order to prosper and progress. Having said that, the Iraqis are committed to their rights as much as they are committed to the rights of others. Without peace they will be faced with many obstacles that would stop them from fulfilling their human role.

Benn: Mr President, may I ask you some questions. The first is, does Iraq have any weapons of mass destruction?

Saddam: Most Iraqi officials have been in power for over 34 years and have experience of dealing with the outside world. Every fair-minded person knows that when Iraqi officials say something, they are trustworthy. A few minutes ago when you asked me if I wanted to look at the questions beforehand I told you I didn't feel the need so that we don't waste time, and I gave you the freedom to ask me any question directly so that my reply would be direct.

This is an opportunity to reach the British people and the forces of peace in the world. There is only one truth and therefore I tell you as I have said on many occasions before that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction whatsoever. We challenge anyone who claims that we have to bring forward any evidence and present it to public opinion.

Benn: I have another which has been raised: Do you have links with al Qaeda?

Saddam: If we had a relationship with al Qaeda and we believed in that relationship we wouldn't be ashamed to admit it. Therefore I would like to tell you directly and also through you to anyone who is interested to know that we have no relationship with al Qaeda.

Benn: In relation to the inspectors, there appears to be difficulties

with inspectors, and I wonder whether there's anything you can tell me about these difficulties and whether you believe they will be cleared up before Mr Hans Blix and Mr ElBaradei come back to Baghdad?



Saddam: You are aware that every major event must encounter some difficulty. On the subject of the inspectors and the resolutions that deal with Iraq you must have been following it and you must have a view and a vision as to whether these resolutions have any basis in international law.

Nevertheless the Security Council produced them. These resolutions — implemented or not - or the motivation behind these resolutions could lead the current situation to the path of peace or war. Therefore it's a critical

situation. Let us also remember the unjust suffering of the Iraqi people.

For the last 13 years since the blockade was imposed, you must be aware of the amount of harm that it has caused the Iraqi people, particularly the children and the elderly, as a result of the shortage of food and medicine and other aspects of their life. Therefore we are facing a critical situation.

On that basis, it is not surprising that there might be complaints relating to the small details of the inspection which may be essential issues as far as we are concerned and the way we see the whole thing. It is possible that those Iraqis who are involved with the inspection might complain about the conduct of the inspectors and they complain indeed.

It is also possible that some inspectors either for reasons of practical and detailed procedure, or for some other motives, may complain about the Iraqi conduct. Every fair-minded person knows that as far as resolution 1441 is concerned, the Iraqis have been fulfilling their obligations under the resolution.

When Iraq objects to the conduct of those implementing the Security Council resolutions, that doesn't mean that Iraq wishes to push things to confrontation. Iraq has no interest in war. No Iraqi official or ordinary citizen has expressed a wish to go to war. The question should be directed at the other side. Are they looking for a pretext so they could justify war against Iraq?

If the purpose was to make sure that Iraq is free of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons then they can do that. These weapons do not come in small pills that you can hide in your pocket. These are weapons of mass destruction and it is easy to work out if Iraq has

Saddam Hussein interview on British TV continued

them or not. We have said many times before and we say it again today that Iraq is free of such weapons.

So when Iraq objects to the conduct of the inspection teams or others, that doesn't mean that Iraq is interested in putting obstacles before them which could hinder the efforts to get to the truth. It is in our interest to facilitate their mission to find the truth. The question is does the other side want to get to the same conclusion or are they looking for a pretext for aggression?

If those concerned prefer aggression then it's within their reach. The super powers can create a pretext any day to claim that Iraq is not implementing resolution 1441. They have claimed before that Iraq did not implement the previous resolutions. However, after many years it became clear that Iraq had complied with these resolutions. Otherwise, why are they focusing now on the latest resolution and not the previous ones?

Benn: May I broaden the question out, Mr President, to the relations between Iraq and the UN, and the prospects for peace more broadly, and I wonder whether with all its weaknesses and all the difficulties, whether you see a way in which the UN can reach that objective for the benefit of humanity?

Saddam: The point you raised can be found in the United Nations charter. As you know Iraq is one of the founders and first signatories of the charter. If we look at the representatives of two superpowers — America and Britain — and look at their conduct and their language, we would notice that they are more motivated by war than their responsibility for peace.

And when they talk about peace all they do is accuse others they wish to destroy in the name of peace. They claim they are looking after the interests of their people. You know as well as I do that this is not the truth. Yes the world would respect this principle if it was genuinely applied. It's not about power but it is about right and wrong, about when we base our human relations on good, and respect this principle. So it becomes simple to adhere to this principle because anyone who violates it will be exposed to public opinion.

Benn: There are people who believe this present conflict is about oil, and I wonder if you would say something about how you see the enormous oil reserves of Iraq being developed, first for the benefit of the people of Iraq and secondly for the needs of mankind.

Saddam: When we speak about oil in this part of the world — we are an integral part of the world - we have to deal with others in all aspects of life, economic as well as social, technical, scientific and other areas. It seems that the authorities in the U.S. are motivated by aggression that has been evident for more than a decade against the region.

The first factor is the role of those influential people in the decision taken by the president of the U.S. based on sympathy with the Zionist entity that was created at the expense of Palestine and its people and their humanity. These people force the hand of the American administration by claiming that the Arabs pose a danger

to Israel, without remembering their obligation to God and how the Palestinian people were driven out of their homeland.

The consecutive American administrations were led down a path of hostility against the people of this region, including our own nation and we are part of it. Those people and others have been telling the various US administrations, especially the current one, that if you want to control the world you need to control the oil. Therefore the destruction of Iraq is a pre-requisite to controlling oil.

That means the destruction of the Iraqi national identity, since the Iraqis are committed to their principles and rights according to international law and the UN charter. It seems that this argument has appealed to some U.S. administrations especially the current one that if they control the oil in the Middle East, they would be able to control the world.

They could dictate to China the size of its economic growth and interfere in its education system and could do the same to Germany and France and perhaps to Russia and Japan. They might even tell the same to Britain if its oil doesn't satisfy its domestic consumption. It seems to me that this hostility is a trademark of the current US administration and is based on its wish to control the world and spread its hegemony.

The question is why not replace the term control, the approach of control, the policy of control and aggression, with cooperation? Who is going to guarantee that America can control the Middle East oil by aggression, destruction and harming people?

People have the right to say that if this aggression by the American administration continues, it would lead to widespread enmity and resistance.

We won't be able to develop the oil fields or the oil industry and therefore create worldwide co-operation as members of the human family when there is war, destruction and death. Isn't it reasonable to question this approach and conclude that this road will not benefit anyone including America or its people? It may serve some short-term interests or the interests of some influential powers in the US but we can't claim that it serves the interest of the American people in the long run or other nations.

Benn: There are tens of millions, maybe hundreds of millions of people in Britain and America, in Europe and worldwide, who want to see a peaceful outcome to this problem, and they are the real Americans in my opinion, the real British, the real French, the real Germans, because they think of the world in terms of their children. I have 10 grandchildren and in my family there is English, Scottish, American, French, Irish, Jewish and Indian blood, and for me politics is about their future, their survival. And I wonder whether you could say something yourself directly through this interview to the peace movement of the world that might help to advance the cause they have in mind?

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Blasts highlight Afghan land mine danger

by Mark Kennedy

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) - From a western observation post at the sprawling U.S. military headquarters, the boom was audible and immediately recognizable.

U.S. soldiers who guard the Bagram Air Base said they instantly knew a land mine had just been detonated outside the barbed-wire fence. Within minutes, they saw a group of Afghan men desperately pushing a wheelbarrow toward the base.

Inside the wheelbarrow was the latest bleeding victim of a mine.

The man was one of three Afghan civilians injured Tuesday by two separate land mine blasts outside the base, an all-too-frequent occurrence at one of the most heavily mined areas of one of the most heavily mined nations.

Two of the men suffered wounds to their faces and one also was injured in the shoulder. A third man injured both hands and had his right leg amputated in another blast. All three men were treated by the military at the Bagram base.

Afghanistan's mines are a legacy of 23 years of civil war and Soviet military occupation. Land mines and unexploded bombs and rockets have killed or maimed at least 200,000 Afghans since 1979, according to the International Red Cross.

Since the beginning of 2002, more than 7,000 mines have been removed from Bagram. The base is located on a strategically

Saddam Hussein interview on British TV continued

Saddam: First of all we admire the development of the peace movement around the world in the last few years. We pray to God to empower all those working against war and for the cause of peace and security based on just peace for all. And through you we say to the British people that Iraqis do not hate the British people.

Before 1991 Iraq and Britain had a normal relationship as well as normal relations with America. At that time the British governments had no reason to criticise Iraq as we hear some voices doing these days. We hope the British people would tell those who hate the Iraqis and wish them harm that there is no reason to justify this war and please tell them that I say to you because the British people are brave — tell them that the Iraqis are brave too.

Tell the British people if the Iraqis are subjected to aggression or humiliation they would fight bravely. Just as the British people did in the Second World War and we will defend our country as they defended their country each in its own way. The Iraqis don't wish war but if war is imposed upon them — if they are attacked and insulted — they will defend themselves. They will defend their country, their sovereignty and their security. We will not disappoint those who believe in the principles of justice. And we will uphold the principles of justice and right that we strongly believe in.

important plain near Kabul, the Afghan capital, and was often fought over by competing armies during 20 years of war here.

"These mines are left over from years and years of warfare, which makes them even more dangerous because the explosive can become unstable with age and can maybe react just with someone stomping their foot three feet away," said Col. Roger King, a spokesman for the U.S. military.

"The longer they're in the ground, the more camouflaged they become and the harder they are to spot," he said.

Even U.S. troops, trained to recognize mines and where they might be seeded, have fallen victim to long-forgotten dangers. Last month, a soldier with the 769th Engineering Battalion from the Louisiana National Guard lost his right foot when he stepped on a mine in an uncleared zone at Bagram. A Polish soldier was slightly injured in the same blast.

Nearly 1.5 square miles of land must still be cleared of mines at the sprawling base. Long-buried mines often resurface when construction projects churn up the soil.

From the base's observation posts, U.S. soldiers routinely see children flying kites and playing among the ruins of surrounding villages still dotted with unexploded land mines. There were eight land mine deaths on or near the base in the past six months.

In one 35-day period from May to June, 25 Afghan civilians were treated for mine explosions near Bagram, King said. The last U.S. death from land mines was Chief Petty Officer Matthew J. Bourgeois, 35, of Tallahassee, Fla., who was killed during a training mission near Kandahar on March 28.

The South Korean army plans to open a clinic at Bagram next week to handle, among other patients, Afghans injured by mines. A section of the base's fortifications is being moved to allow quick access into the clinic.

The United Nations says leftover ordnance still kills or maims 150 to 300 people a month across Afghanistan - 70 percent of them civilians - despite clearing efforts and education campaigns that include murals of mines on walls of government buildings in Kabul.

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Cleckley: need special time to celebrate who we are

by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, USA, Special to the American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va., Feb. 5, 2003 — February is African-American History Month, but the tributes and testimonies actually begin about two weeks earlier, around Jan. 15, the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



It is impossible for African Americans like Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Julia Cleckley to consider the month without acknowledging King's birthday, because of his role in helping attain the civil rights that so many people celebrate every February.

The mid-January King national holiday weekend honors the American civil rights icon. It's also a time when many Americans begin to pay annual tributes to the members of the nation's diverse culture. For instance, special months honoring women (March) and Asian Americans (May) soon follow.

Cleckley enlisted in the Women's Army Corps before the onus of gender segregation moved the American conscience to disband it. She earned her commission in the New York Army Guard's 42nd Infantry Division in 1976, the year America celebrated its 200th anniversary and the ideal expressed in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal."

Like many African-American women, Cleckley said, she strives to help others attain the dream of equality that King advocated for all.

She was promoted to one-star general in September 2002 after becoming the first black woman who'd achieved many other milestones in the Army Guard. Not the least of her achievements was her promotion to colonel in the ranks of guardsmen who hold a special authority to serve on full-time active duty.

She's now the Army Guard director's special assistant for human resource readiness, and she chairs the Army Guard's Equal Employment Opportunity Committee. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People presented Cleckley with its Roy Wilkins Renowned Service Award in 1998.

Cleckley recently addressed the National Guard's annual prayer breakfast honoring King in Washington, D.C. She said she's set to travel to at least five states during African American History Month and would speak about how far African Americans have come and how far they have yet to go. She shared some of her observations during a post-breakfast interview:

Q. Why is it important to honor ethnic groups with events such as African American History Month when we're all said to be Americans?

Cleckley. "The majority race is not Hispanic or African American. That is coupled with the fact that most of the leaders in American society and in the administration and in all facets of the corporate world belong to the majority race. But we're all intertwined.

"It's important that the majority race hears and sees what minorities have done to make this country great. A lot of people in the majority race don't know these things. They need to know about the struggles of Martin Luther King Jr. and his part in getting the Civil Rights Act passed.

"It is important for Hispanics and Asian Americans and African Americans to have a day or a month to celebrate who we are, and to show that this is what our cultures have to offer, and to show what is important to us. It is important to let everyone else see that."

Q. How far have we progressed toward fulfilling the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

Cleckley. "We've come a long way, but we still have a way to go. Since I grew up in his era, I have, of course, seen progress. Segregation is just not overt now. But we still have some of it in covert ways. I'd say we've progressed to well over 70 percent."

Q. Will it take a lot more time to achieve the final 20 percent to 30 percent than it did the first 70 percent to 80 percent?

Cleckley. "I don't think it's going to take that long. The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, and look how far we've come. I think we'll get there much quicker than it took us to get to where we are today."

Q. Do you have an African American hero other than Martin Luther King Jr.?

Cleckley. "One of my favorite heroes is the late Barbara Jordan. She was a great orator. She was the first African American woman who really moved me in terms of her educational philosophy and her professional accomplishments." (Jordan, who died in 1996, was a congresswoman, orator, educator and the first African American woman to win a seat in the Texas state senate.)

Q. Is the military still setting the pace for equality?

Cleckley. "Yes. I have felt that way ever since I was an enlisted person. I think the military is far more advanced in a lot of things than some of the civilian sectors. They include equal opportunity, diversity, and the fact that females can progress as long as we do the job and as long as we punch all of the tickets that we're supposed to punch. That's what I've done throughout my career."

(Master Sgt. Bob Haskell is senior correspondent in the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office, Arlington, Va.)



Members of the Air Force Honor Guard fold the U.S. flag during a service for William C. McCool at the Grace United Methodist Church in Nashville, Ill. on Wednesday. McCool was one of the seven astronauts who perished when the space shuttle Columbia broke up over Texas on Saturday. AP photo.



U.S. Marines based in the northern Kuwaiti desert watch a color guard during a visit by the Corps commandant February 5, 2003. The U.S. military, getting ready for a possible war with Iraq, said on Wednesday it had activated nearly 17,000 more Reserve troops, bringing the total number of reservists on active duty to more than 111,000. The latest mobilization means that nearly 10 percent of the total of about 1.2 million U.S. reservists now have been summoned to active duty. Reuters photo.



A U.S. soldier looks at the North side through a pair of binoculars at the truce village of Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas, north of Seoul, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003. The DMZ remains the most vivid symbol of the threat of war on the Korean peninsula, all the more pressing with international tension over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development. (AP Photo/Yun Jai-hyoung)



COMPOUND SEARCH — Soldiers of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment conduct a search for suspected Taliban and weapons at a compound in the city of Naray, Afghanistan, Jan. 24, 2003. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Preston Cheeks



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